

Community Leadership Minor

Community Understanding

Goal Description:

Minors in Community Leadership will demonstrate an understanding of ways to apply disciplinary knowledge to understand and address community needs.

Providing Department: Community Leadership Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Community Understanding

Learning Objective Description:

Upon completion of the foundations course Intro to Community Leadership, students in the Minor in Community Leadership will recognize their abilities to apply disciplinary knowledge to understand and address community needs.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Community Understanding

Indicator Description:

Please see the attached instrument (ComLeadershipBACESurveyExcerpt).

Attached Files

 [ComLeadershpBACESurveyExcerpt.doc](#)

Criterion Description:

At least 80% of students will report 4 or higher on questions asking them to evaluate their ability to apply disciplinary knowledge to understand and address community needs.

Findings Description:

To measure student ability to apply disciplinary knowledge to understand and address community needs, students were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a number of statements about community engagement on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Scores on four statements were evaluated for this indicator.

1. The community engagement in this course helped me to connect theory with practice. In fall 2023 94% of students responded 4 or higher, this is an increase over 82% in fall 2022.
2. The community engagement in this course helped me to apply the subject matter in a “real world” situation. In fall 2023 100% of students responded 4 or higher. This is an increase over fall 2022 when 91% of students responded 4 or higher.
3. This course helped me become more aware of the needs in my community. In fall 2023 94% of students responded 4 or higher, slightly up from 91% in fall 2022.
4. This course helped me understand that I can make a difference in my community by being involved. In fall 2023 100% of students responded 4 or higher, equal to fall 2022.

Please see attached BACE scale post-test instrument for reference.

[..\SOCI33052022\ComLeadershipFall2023BACEPostTest.pdf](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Community Understanding - Action

Action Description:

In addition to the existing self-reported evaluation of learning objectives related to community understanding, in the 2024-2025 cycle we will add a community partner assessment in the form of an evaluation of student presentations to understand the community partner’s perceptions of student understanding of community needs. We hope that in this first year at least 80% of responses confirm that student presentations were seen to demonstrate an understanding of the community partner’s needs.

Contribute to Civic Life

Goal Description:

Minors in Community Leadership will demonstrate a combination of knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions necessary to contribute to civic life in their communities.

Providing Department: Community Leadership Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Contribute to Civic Life

Learning Objective Description:

The summary assignment of the capstone internship course will be evaluated for evidence of the knowledge, skills, values and dispositions that contribute to effective community leadership.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Contribute to Civic Life

Indicator Description:

Please see the attached rubric (CivicEngagementRubric).

Attached Files

 [Comm Certificate Scoring Rubric.docx](#)

Criterion Description:

The summary assignment from the capstone internship course will be evaluated by members of the Sociology Department’s Undergraduate Committee according to the attached rubric. 80% of assignments should receive an average score of 2.5.

Findings Description:

Measurement 2: Contribute to Civic Life

The summary assignment from the capstone internship course will be evaluated by members of the Sociology Department’s Undergraduate Committee according to the attached rubric. 80% of assignments should receive an average score of 2.5.

This year the evaluation of capstones was completed by a modified committee due to scheduling challenges. The evaluation revealed that 100% of assignments earned an average score of 2.5 or higher

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Contribute to Civic Life - Action

Action Description:

In the 2024-2025 cycle, the final assignment will be revised to be more structured to have the students more explicitly address their growth in civic engagement. Our hope is that scoring on the current rubric will be stronger in the areas explicitly discussing students’ capacity for civic engagement and intention to continue to contribute to civic life.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Closing Summary

The number of Community Leadership minors decreased due to the COVID-19 shutdown and is struggling to recover. The foundational course Intro to Community Leadership is typically the recruiting mechanism for students to become minors. This course still attracts a full roster, but a larger proportion of the students are taking the course late in their degree plan without sufficient time to add a minor. To address the recruiting issue, in fall 2023 the department will establish an interdisciplinary advisory group for the minor from departments that have historically had Community Leadership minors (sociology, psychology, political science, communication studies, mass communication, criminal justice). The advisory group will help draft a recruitment plan to strengthen numbers. Additionally, CHSS has created an incentive stipend for experiential learning that will hopefully help build the number of students participating in the internship program.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

In the 2023-2024 academic year, CHSS offered an incentive stipend for experiential learning that helped incentivize student participation in the internship program. Students participating in the internship course have increased from 0 in the 2022-2023 academic year to 7 in 2023-2024. The department did not establish an interdisciplinary advisory group for the minor as previously thought. Rather, the recruitment of interns and new Community Leadership minors has occurred through more direct student initiatives. The foundational course, Intro to Community Leadership has included more intentional “marketing” of the minor, conversations with the Sociology Club were held to chat about the minor. The numbers of minors have increased from 1 minor in spring 2023 to 10 in spring 2024.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

The focus this upcoming year will be on increasing enrollment in the minor. The advisor for the minor will meet with SAM Center advisors prior to the beginning of advising for the upcoming semester (September for the spring semester, February for summer and fall semesters) to ensure that the CHSS advisors, and those of the other feeder disciplines, are informed and updated on the Community Leadership Minor. Rapid turnover of advisors has created gaps in information and missed opportunities for minors.